

has helped numerous individuals and small businesses throughout Maine.

Janet has been a Maine Small Business Development Center (Maine SBDC) certified business counselor since 2006 at the Maine SBDC service center at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. On December 21, 2009, Janet will be acknowledged as the 2009 Maine State Star. This honor recognizes her exemplary service on behalf of the small business community in Maine, particularly in Kennebec and Somerset counties in central Maine.

The State Star award is presented each year by the national Association of Small Business Development Centers and recognizes an outstanding SBDC employee from each state. The 2009 award is based on Janet's efforts in 2008 when she worked with 148 small businesses, provided 1,070 hours of one-on-one counseling, and helped to launch 20 new businesses in central Maine. Her efforts led to the creation of 37 new jobs and the retention of 21 jobs. Through her efforts, her clients were able to access capital totaling over \$4 million.

Janet has long been involved in helping small businesses, and she has been especially active with women-owned businesses and nonprofits. A certified public accountant, Janet was previously a counselor for 11 years with the Women's Business Center at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. in Augusta. Later, she was an accounting supervisor with an Augusta-based accounting firm, where she specialized in small and women-owned businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Janet was the SBA 1993 Accountant Advocate of the Year and the SBA 2002 Women's Business Advocate of the Year and this further recognition is well deserved. The State of Maine and its small business community owe a debt of gratitude to Janet M. Roderick for her commitment to the success of small business. I applaud Janet's work and extend congratulations to her as the 2009 State Star.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Janet M. Roderick for her life of dedication and service to her community and the growth of Maine's small businesses.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

Project Name: Port of Bristol Bay Expansion
Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Legal name and address of entity receiving earmark: Bristol Bay Borough, 1 Main Street, Naknek, AK, 99633

Description of how the money will be spent and why the use of federal taxpayer funding is justified: Shovel ready dock expansion where the largest run of sockeye salmon is processed and shipped. This project is the economic engine for the low-income area of Bristol Bay. These funds will go toward con-

structing a sheet pile dock and addition to the 27 year old structure.

Appropriated Amount: \$1,000,000
Detailed Finance Plan: Construction
\$1,000,000

THE NATIONAL EMANCIPATION COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of myself and my colleagues DAN LUNGREN of California, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida, the National Emancipation Commemoration Act of 2009. This legislation will establish an 18-member National Emancipation Commemoration Commission to provide for an appropriate national observance of the 150th anniversaries of the Emancipation Proclamation in 2013, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution in 2015, and related events, and to conduct a study exploring why modern slavery continues to exist in the United States and elsewhere.

Our Nation's history is unfortunately intertwined with the story of slavery and the slave trade. For hundreds of years, men, women and children were captured and taken from Africa and enslaved in the American colonies. Yet alongside the history of slavery in the United States, we also remember the stories of those who fought against the abhorrent practice—some with the pen, and some with the sword. The work and lives of historical figures like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman are familiar to our classrooms and history books. Other abolitionists are less well-known, such as Levi and Catherine Coffin, a Quaker couple in Indiana who helped over 3,000 slaves escape to freedom.

The struggle for freedom for all Americans reached a new height on January 1, 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. With it, he declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the States rebelling against the Union "are, and henceforward shall be free." As the Union Army advanced on the Confederate territory, thousands of slaves gained their freedom each day. Shortly after the war ended, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude throughout the United States.

Despite these milestones, slavery has not yet been relegated to the pages of history. An estimated 27 million people are still in servitude worldwide—including an estimated 50,000 or more people enslaved in the United States.

The National Emancipation Commemoration Commission's work is two-fold. It will advise the Attorney General on making grants available to government and non-profit entities for activities and programs related to the commemoration. These activities may include the publication of scholarly research, production of a commemorative stamp or coin, and the development of informational displays and programs at National Parks and historic sites related to slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the Emancipation throughout the United States.

The Commission created by this bill is also tasked with connecting the commemoration of Emancipation with the problem of modern slavery in the United States and around the world. The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution is a living promise of freedom that places a duty on all of us to prevent involuntary servitude. In support of that duty, the Commission will conduct a study addressing why slavery in all its forms still exists, analyzing the persistence of modern slavery in the United States from 1865 to the present, and make recommendations to address issues and concerns highlighted by the study.

For as long as there have been slaves in this country, there have been justice-minded individuals and groups dedicated to the abolition of slavery. It is appropriate that we commemorate their work and the 150th anniversaries of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth Amendment, and in so doing, renew our commitment to ending modern slavery in the United States and around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Outpatient Mental Health Modernization Act of 2009, which will support a high quality and cost-savings approach to long-term care mental health services.

Five million Medicare beneficiaries have mental disorders other than mental retardation and 1.3 million of these individuals are under the age of 65. Medicare Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHPs) provide a structured and clinically intensive alternative to hospitalization for patients who otherwise might require sustained inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. PHP psychiatric patients typically receive four to six hours of treatment per day, five to six days a week in hospital-based settings and community mental health centers.

The severity the patient's illness often prevents the individual from obtaining or seeking transportation to the PHP facility, or from accessing high quality food. Additionally, some psychiatric medications that are prescribed to the patient cannot be safely administered without food. These patients often live in group-supervised settings due to difficulties in maintaining family relationships and their financial instability.

Currently, Medicare does not cover the costs of nutritional planning, meals or transportation for patients who receive psychiatric treatment in a PHP setting. Therefore, PHP facilities are responsible for the cost of providing food and transportation. This aggravates financial burdens that many PHPs and countless other community organizations are experiencing in these difficult economic times.

The Outpatient Mental Health Modernization Act of 2009 requires Medicare to reimburse PHPs for providing transportation and food and nutritional services. The bill also establishes a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee in which a diverse group of behavioral health stakeholders would examine and provide recommendations on how to address the